

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02720 241805Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /084 W
-----250540Z 083099 /11

R 241649Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9690
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2720

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XH, GR
SUB: GREECE AND EASTERN EUROPE

1. THE GOG CONTINUES TO PROMOTE AN ACTIVE EASTER EUROPEAN POLICY. ELEMENTS IN THAT POLICY INCLUDE PROMOTION OF TRADE, EXCHANGES OF VISITS AND SIGNATURE OF VARIOUS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS (CULTURAL, CONSULAR AND TECHNICAL). LIKE PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' RELATED BALKAN INITIATIVE, THE CONCRETE RESULTS OF THIS POLICY SEEM VERY LIMITED. IN FACT, THE MAIN FRUIT OF THE ACTIVITY MAY BE THAT IT SILENCES DOMESTIC CRITICS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE CARP ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO EXAMINE THE "EASTERN ALTERNATIVE."

2. THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE SEEN QUITE A LOT OF
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02720 241805Z

ACTIVITY IN GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST NATIONS
TO THE NORTH.

(A) GREEK COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS
VISITED BUCHAREST MARCH 17-20. PAPALIGOURAS THEN
LEFT ATHENS ON A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO BELGRADE MARCH 23. THE
VISITS FOCUS ON IMPROVING TRADE RELATIONS AND, WHEN

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, WE WILL BE REPORTING.

(B) HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRIGYES PUJA VISITED ATHENS MARCH 16-19, RETURNING FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' VISIT TO BUDAPEST LAST YEAR. WHILE HERE, HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS SIGNED BILATERAL CONSULAR AND ROAD TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS. FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA EXTENDED AN INVITATION FOR PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO VISIT HUNGARY. (FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR KUBISCH THAT PUJA "OPENLY" PUSHED THE SOVIET LINE ON EVERYTHING, ESPECIALLY CSCE. BITSIOS SAID PUJA ARGUED THAT MOSCOW AND BUDAPEST ARE WORRIED THAT THE USG'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD STIMULATE CONFRONTATION AT BELGRADE, AND COULD INTERFERE WITH DETENTE.)

(C) A POLISH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP VISITED ATHENS AT THE INVITATION OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT MARCH 14-19, RETURNING A VISIT TO POLAND BY GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS LAST YEAR.

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THIS SORT OF ACTIVITY TO CONTINUE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER IS EXPECTED IN ATHENS LATER THIS YEAR, AND WILL VERY LIKELY EXTEND AN INVITATION TO CARAMANLIS TO VISIT PRAGUE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CARAMANLIS MAY ACCEPT SUCH AN INVITATION AS WELL AS THE ONE HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE HUNGARIANS.

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 02720 241805Z

4. THE FLURRY OF COMMUNIQUEES AND VISITS SHOULD NOT OBSCURE A MORE BASIC FACT: THE GOG INTENDS TO ANCHOR GREECE TO THE WEST--POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY--AND ITS EXPECTATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY REWARDS TO BE FOUND TO THE NORTH ARE LOW AND REALISTIC.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE PROMOTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS02720
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770102-0483
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770328/aaaaaxzx.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db4f20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3014111
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREECE AND EASTERN EUROPE
TAGS: PFOR, XH, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db4f20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009